

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4556
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2002
SETTING UP OF ENVIRONMENTAL COURTS
RATNA SINGH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Environmental Courts have been set up in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of cases disposed off by these courts so far; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (c) The Government is in the process of setting up the National Environment Tribunal under the National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995. The Act provides for strict liability for damages arising out of any accident occurring while handling any hazardous substances and for effective and expeditious disposal of cases arising from such accidents, with a view to giving relief and compensation for damages to person, property and the environment and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The main difficulty in the setting up of the Tribunal has been the availability of suitable incumbent to head the Tribunal.